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SUBJECT: DAILY SUMMARY OF JAPANESE PRESS 04/10/07

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ARTICLES:

- (1) Poll on Japan's Constitution (Yomiuri)

YOMIURI (Pages 15) (Full)
April 6, 2007

Questions & Answers
(Figures shown in percentage)

Q: What's your interest in the Constitution of Japan? If there's anything you are particularly interested in, pick as many as you like from among those listed below.

The Emperor and imperial household
 20.4
 Japan's war renunciation, Self-Defense Forces
 48.4
 Equality, discrimination
 15.9
 Freedom of speech, press, and all other forms of expression
 11.7
 Information disclosure
 15.3
 Privacy protection
 16.7
 The right to live in peace, social welfare
 22.3
 Environmental disruption
 29.8
 The rights to assemble, demonstrate, and strike
 1.8
 Electoral system
 11.8
 The right of access to the courts
 14.9
 Official visits to Yasukuni Shrine
 20.0
 Constitutional revision
 18.1
 Separation of the three powers of administration, legislation, and
 judicature
 3.2
 Local autonomy
 14.1
 The Diet's bicameral system

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6.3
 The process and background of establishing the Constitution
 5.6
 Other answers (O/A) + nothing in particular (NIP) + no answer (N/A)
 13.7

Q: Do you think it would be better to amend the Constitution?

Yes	46.2
No	39.1
N/A	14.7

Q: (Only for those who answered "yes" to the foregoing question)
 Why? Pick as many reasons as you like from among those listed
 below.

Because it's a US-imposed constitution	30.2
In order to expressly stipulate Japan's right of self-defense and the existence of the Self-Defense Forces	27.2
Because there are too many cases claiming rights while neglecting obligations	21.1
Because the conventional way of reading or applying the Constitution's provisions would lead to confusion if and when there is a need to meet situational changes	31.9
Because Japan is expected to make international contributions, and there are also various challenges Japan cannot meet under its present-day constitution.	47.6
O/A	2.6
N/A	1.5

Q: (Only for those who answered "yes" to the foregoing question)
 When would you like the Constitution to be amended? Pick only one
 from among those listed below.

Within 3 years	50.7
Within 5 years	24.8
Within 10 years	6.7
O/A	1.2
NIP	12.9
N/A	3.6

Q: (Only for those who answered "no" to the foregoing question) Why?
Pick as many reasons as you like from among those listed below.

Because the Constitution has already taken root in the nation

44.1

Because the Constitution is of a pacifist nature, Japan can be proud
of it

46.9

Because the Constitution guarantees fundamental human rights and
democracy

22.8

Because the Constitution can be interpreted or applied in a flexible
way with the change of the times

19.7

Because revising the Constitution may pave the way for Japan to turn
into a military power

32.1

O/A

0.7

N/A

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2.2

Q: The Constitution's Article 9 stipulates that Japan renounces war
and will never maintain any war potential. The government has so far
responded to relevant problems with its interpretation and
application of the article. What do you think the government should
do about Article 9 from now on? Pick only one from among those
listed below.

The government should continue with its interpretation and operation
of Article 9

35.8

The government's conventional way of responding to problems with its
constitutional interpretation and operation has now reached its
limit, so Article 9 should be amended

35.7

The government should strictly abide by Article 9 and should not
respond to problems via interpretation or operation

20.0

O/A

0.2

N/A

8.3

Q: The Constitution's Article 9 has two paragraphs. The first
paragraph stipulates Japan's war renunciation. Do you think this
paragraph should be amended?

Yes 14.0

No 80.3

N/A 5.7

Q: The second paragraph in Article 9 stipulates Japan's maintenance
of no war potential. Do you think this paragraph should be amended?

Yes 38.1

No 54.1

N/A 7.8

Q: The government has been taking the position that although Japan
has the right to collective self-defense, the Constitution does not
allow Japan to exercise this right. What do you think about this?
Pick only one that is closest to your opinion from among those
listed below.

The Constitution should be amended so that Japan can exercise the
right of collective self-defense 20.8

The Constitution should be reinterpreted so that Japan can exercise
the right of collective self-defense 20.6

Japan should continue as it has done and need not be allowed to use
the right of collective self-defense 50.0

O/A	0.1
N/A	8.5

Q: The Constitution stipulates the Diet shall consist of two houses, namely the House of Representatives (lower chamber) and the House of Councillors (upper chamber). There are various arguments about this bicameral parliamentary system. Pick only one that is closest to your opinion.

The Diet should change its bicameral-chamber system to the unicameral-chamber system	21.8
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The bicameral-chamber system should be maintained, and the House of Representatives' role and authority should be strengthened	7.9
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The bicameral-chamber system should be maintained, and the House of Councillors' role and authority should be strengthened	18.7
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The Diet should maintain its current two-chamber system as is	44.2
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O/A	0.7
N/A	6.7

Q: If there's anything you think it would be better to revise in the Constitution or add to the Constitution, pick as many as you like from among those listed below.

The Emperor's status	15.0
Japan's maintenance of armed forces for self-defense	23.2
Proactive international cooperation	23.3
Right to access government information	17.8
Privacy protection	21.4
Respect for family	13.3
The right to live in a good environment	25.3
The prime minister's strengthened powers to deal with emergencies, etc.	12.5
The lower and upper houses' respective roles	11.8
Central and local government roles	21.9
Establishment of a constitutional court	4.2
O/A	0.1
NIP	23.8
N/A	4.1

Q: This May marks the 60th anniversary of the Constitution since it came into effect. What do you think about the Constitution and its role played in Japanese society?

Appreciate very much	37.9
Appreciate somewhat	46.8
Don't appreciate very much	7.8
Don't appreciate at all	2.2
N/A	5.4

Q: There is an opinion saying Japan has maintained peace and achieved economic growth under its present-day constitution. Do you agree to this opinion?

Yes	86.5
No	10.1
N/A	3.4

Q: There is an opinion saying Japan remains unable to make sufficient contributions to international peace cooperation activities under its present-day constitution because its people are concerned about Japan's peace only. Do you agree to this opinion?

Yes	37.5
No	56.8
N/A	5.7

Q: There is an opinion saying the idea of respecting individual freedoms and rights has now taken root. Do you agree to this opinion?

Yes	66.3
No	27.6

N/A 6.1

Q: There is an opinion saying people now neglect the public good as a result of respecting individual freedoms and rights. Do you agree to this opinion?

Yes	48.0
No	41.4
N/A	10.7

Q: There will be an election this summer for the House of Councillors. When you choose a candidate and a political party to vote for, do you factor in their views about the Constitution?

Yes	40.7
No	28.7
Can't way which	27.5
N/A	3.2

Polling methodology

Date of survey: March 17-18.

Subjects of survey: 3,000 persons chosen from among all eligible voters throughout the country (at 250 locations on a stratified two-stage random-sampling basis).

Method of implementation: Door-to-door visits for face-to-face interviews.

Number of valid respondents: 1,741 persons (58.0%)

Breakdown of respondents: Male-49%, female-51% ; persons in their 20s-11%, 30s-16%, 40s-16%, 50s-20%, 60s-21%, 70 and over-16% ; big cities (Tokyo's 23 wards and government-designated cities)-22%, major cities (with a population of more than 300,000)-18%, medium-size cities (with a population of more than 100,000)-25%, small cities (with a population of less than 100,000)-23%, towns and villages-12%.

(2) Confidence-building for "strategic reciprocity" through frank dialogue, exchanges of views

NIHON KEIZAI (Page 9) (Slightly abridged)
April 10, 2007

Nobumichi Izumi

Japan and China will hold a summit meeting in Tokyo after a hiatus of six and a half years, but the real leading actor in the meeting would be North Korea. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and China's Premier Wen Jiabao will meet tomorrow, April 11, while North Korea will open its Supreme People's Assembly (equivalent to Japan's parliament) in Pyongyang that day. The Supreme People's Assembly will take place at this time of year. Western media are likely to report on the Abe-Wen talks in the context of North Korea's nuclear issue instead of "strategic, reciprocal relations" between Japan and China.

It may not have been a mere coincidence that North Korea tested its nuclear device the day after Abe and Chinese President Hu Jintao agreed in the first Japan-China summit in five years in Beijing on Oct. 8 last year to aim for "strategic reciprocity." The fact that Tokyo and Beijing were coming closer to each other should have irritated Pyongyang, which is dependent on China for its lifelines, such as energies.

As a matter of course, North Korea, including the issue of abductions of Japanese citizens by North Koreans, will be among key

subjects of discussions in the upcoming Japan-China summit talks slated for tomorrow. In order to resolve that issue, Japan and China need to build a trust relationship. "Using the opportunity of Premier Wen's visit to Japan, we must flesh out the strategic, reciprocal relations so that China-Japan relations will not slide back," Chinese Ambassador to Japan Wang Yi said. He called on the Lower House speaker and the Upper House president and set the stage

for Wen to deliver a speech before the Japanese Diet as the first Chinese premier.

In addition to the North Korean issue, the two countries share the common subjects described by this buzzword: "the environment and energies." Whether the issue of developing gas fields in the East China Sea will make progress is drawing attention at present. Ahead of his tour of Japan, Wen told a press briefing in Beijing: "I believe that we can resolve the issue in a peaceful manner and turn the East China Sea into a sea of peace, cooperation, and friendship."

Wen describes Abe's visit to China last October that broke the stalled relations with Japan as a "trip to break the ice" and his own trip to Japan this time as a "trip to thaw the ice." If he were to pave the way for resolving the pending issue of gas-field development during his stay in Japan, his trip to Japan would become a symbol of strategic reciprocity. Also, his trip to Japan would serve as an occasion to thaw the icy relations between Japan and China that have continued since former Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited Yasukuni Shrine while he was in power.

"I was born to a family of educators living in a farm village and experienced the disturbance of war in my childhood." This remark came from Wen during his first press briefing after taking office as premier in March 2003.

Wen's parents live in a suburb of Tianjin City. The area around his home and an elementary school built by his grandfather were reportedly burned down by the former Imperial Japanese Army during the war. It is easily conceivable that Wen has mixed feelings toward Japan.

After the war, Wen went to the famous Nankai High School in Tianjin and enjoyed playing baseball.

Wen hopes to play baseball with college students and others in Kyoto on April 13. Wen's last visit to Japan was 15 years ago, but Wen is not well known to the Japanese public. We hope to see Wen engage in frank dialogue and exchange of views in his series of events here in Japan in order to promote mutual understanding at the grassroots-level and build confidence between the two countries, beyond love and hate.

(3) Japan-China poll: 90% see need to strengthen friendships between Japan, China, US; 40% hope for better ties between Japan, China

YOMIURI (Page 1) (Full)
April 8, 2007

Ahead of Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao's visit to Japan from April 11, the Yomiuri Shimbun and Oriental Outlook Weekly—a weekly journal published by China's Xinhua News Agency—conducted a joint survey to probe the attitudes of university students in Japan and China. According to findings from the survey, the greater part of respondents both in Japan and in China thought that Japan-China

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relations were in "bad" shape. However, those thinking Japan, China, and the United States should strengthen their respective friendships accounted for about 90% both in Japan and in China.

The survey, planned by the Yomiuri Weekly and Oriental Outlook Weekly, was conducted in late March. In Japan, college students were polled on the Internet, and answers were obtained from a total of 1,020 persons. In China, a questionnaire form was distributed to college students, and a total of 987 persons responded to the survey.

In the survey, respondents were asked if they thought Japan, China, and the United States should bolster their respective friendly relations for peace and stability in Asia. In response to this question, 89% answered "yes" in Japan, with 91% giving the same answer in China.

Asked about the current state of Japan-China relations, "bad" views

totalled 84% in Japan and 90% in China. "Good" views totalled 11% in Japan and 6% in China.

In Japan, there are bad feelings over China's territorial claim to the Senkaku islets and its gas exploitation projects in the East China Sea. In addition, there is still a strong impression in Japan of anti-Japanese demonstrations that occurred in China about two years ago. In China, there were repercussions from history issues and former Prime Minister Koizumi's visits to Yasukuni Shrine. In both countries, students took a severe view of current Japan-China relations.

However, 37% in Japan and 38% in China thought Japan-China relations would change for the better, with 42% in Japan and 41% in China saying the relations would remain the same. As seen from these figures, there were also expectations for better ties between the two countries. Meanwhile, 13% in Japan and 20% in China thought Japan-China relations would change for the worse.

Respondents were also asked if they expected Japan-China relations to change for the better with Prime Minister Wen's visit to Japan. In response to this question, "yes" accounted for 59% in China and 32% in Japan.

(4) College poll in Japan, China: Students first seek to display capability at work; Job security comes next in Japan, high earnings weighed in China

YOMIURI (Page 7) (Full)
April 8, 2007

The Yomiuri Shimbun and Oriental Outlook Weekly-a weekly journal published by China's Xinhua News Agency-conducted a joint survey of Japanese and Chinese university students to probe their attitudes. In the survey, respondents were asked what they considered to be important in their sense of purpose when they get jobbed in the future. For this question, Japanese students were asked to pick only one from among given choices, with Chinese students allowed to check all that apply. In response to this question, 52% in Japan and 47% in China sought to "display my competence and capability at work," topping all other answers in both countries. Among other answers, 32% chose "stability" in Japan, with 27% weighing "high earnings" in China. In Japan, there are many students seeking to have their future jobs and employment status secured. Meanwhile, Chinese students seem to be strongly eager for high earnings with their

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potential exploitation of opportunities to change jobs or start a business.

In the survey, respondents were also asked what kind of job they would like to get (for only one choice in Japan and multiple choices in China). To this question, 29% in Japan and 34% in China answered that they would like to get a job with a business firm, topping all other answers in both countries. Among other answers, 28% in Japan said they would like to become professionals like a doctor or a lawyer, with 24% in China preferring to become corporate executives. As seen from these figures, Japanese and Chinese students differed in their job awareness. Those seeking to become a government employee accounted for 12% in Japan and 18% in China. This answer ranked third both in Japan and in China.

In addition, respondents were further asked if they could expect themselves to be well off in 10 years. In Japan, "yes" accounted for 55%. In China, however, "yes" totalled 92%. Youths in China, now a rapidly growing economy, seem to be upbeat on the way ahead.

What do you want to consider most important in your sense of purpose when you get jobbed in the future?

	Japan	China
Display my competence and capability	51.7	47.1
Stability	31.7	15.9
Get high earnings	10.2	26.8
National, social development	4.5	13.0
Get high social standing	2.0	7.3

(5) Editorial: MSDF leak of Aegis intelligence -- Is this an organization to rely on for national defense?

YOMIURI (Page 3) (Full)
April 6, 2007

We have doubts about the Maritime Self-Defense Forces (MSDF) being an organization to rely on for national defense. We have never seen such a sloppy system for controlling classified information!

It has been discovered that a Maritime Self-Defense Force petty officer 2nd class, a crewmember of a destroyer, took home intelligence describing the Aegis vessel. Kanagawa Prefectural Police and the MSDF Criminal Investigation Unit are now investigating the case.

There are many unclear points about the case, such as how the intelligence leaked out. Under the Japan-US Mutual Defense Assistance Agreement, top-secret intelligence on the capabilities of defense equipment is classified as "special defense secrets." Kanagawa police believe the data on the Aegis ships fall into that category. It is unusual for the police and the MSDF to break down the turf barrier between them and conduct a joint investigation. They need to thoroughly clear this matter up.

In connection with an investigation of the seaman's Chinese wife, who was arrested on suspicion of illegal overstay, the police in January searched the petty officer's home and confiscated a hard disk. The disk contained secret data on the Aegis destroyer's radar performances and missile defense system.

An Aegis is a destroyer known to have the best defense capabilities in the world. The vessel plays a central role in the missile defense

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system. The MSDF has now five Aegis destroyers. The United States has provided the Aegis' defense system to Japan.

It is necessary to analyze the leaked intelligence in detail. The scandal could have a serious effect on Japan's trust relationship with the United States. If the information falls into the hands of other countries, the security of Japan would be threatened.

When the Aegis defense system was updated in 1998, a MSDF petty officer third class in charge of maintaining and managing the system likely made the information files for internal use in order to explain the capabilities of the new system to senior officials and educate officers in charge of it.

The petty officer second class reportedly told the police that the date on the Aegis system was included in a disc in which he copied obscene pictures from his colleague's personal computer. Another officer also reportedly received the same information. How in the world has MSDF controlled classified files?

The information could be leaked widely. Although the police say that there is no evidence that the information went to a third person or overseas, this is not a matter to reach such a conclusion so easily.

Not only the MSDF but also the Defense Ministry, as well, has had a number of intelligence-leakage scandals. Whenever such a scandal came up, authorities could have reviewed their information management systems and tightened discipline.

There seems to be systematic laxity in the control of defense secrets and a lack of awareness of the importance of such controls.

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Japan and the United States are aiming to sign a general security agreement on military intelligence in order to prevent secret data from being transferred to third countries. This would be a good chance to review what substantial measures are needed to prevent a recurrence.

Japan does not have an espionage law to protect national and defense secrets that other countries normally have. The government should

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look into what legal measures may also be needed.

SCHIEFFER